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Serial No. 10/646,310
67,008-073
S-5674**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A hollow composite article~~ rotor blade assembly, comprising:

a composite rotor blade spar having a tri-axial braid having a multiple of braided bias angled fibers and a multiple of zero degree fibers interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers which form a braided sleeve with a non-circular an elongated cross-sectional profile which surrounds a longitudinal axis, said braided bias angled fibers oriented non-parallel to said longitudinal axis to provide two axes of said tri-axial braid and

said zero degree fibers substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis to provide one axis of said tri-axial braid.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The hollow composite article assembly~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said braided bias angled fibers are offset approximately 40 degrees relative said longitudinal axis.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The hollow composite article assembly~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said braided bias angled fibers are offset approximately 45 degrees relative said longitudinal axis.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The hollow composite article assembly~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said braided bias angled fibers follow a spiral path around said longitudinal axis.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The hollow composite article assembly~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein a leading edge and a trailing edge conic of said hollow composite article comprise said braided bias angled fibers.

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6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~hollow composite article assembly~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said braided bias angled fibers are oriented to accommodate a twist along said longitudinal axis.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~hollow composite article assembly~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein said zero degree fibers are positioned adjacent an upper and lower aerodynamic surface of said hollow composite article, said multiple of zero degree fibers maintained in tension.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~hollow composite article assembly~~ as recited in claim 7, further comprising a separate composite sheet interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers and said multiple of zero degree fibers, said composite sheet located adjacent at least one of said upper and lower aerodynamic surfaces.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~composite rotor blade spar~~ rotor blade assembly, comprising:

A composite rotor blade spar having a multiple of braided bias angled fibers and a multiple of zero degree fibers interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers which form a braided sleeve with a ~~non-circular~~ elongated cross-sectional profile which surrounds a longitudinal axis, said braided bias angled fibers oriented non-parallel to a said longitudinal axis, said zero degree fibers substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composite rotor blade spar assembly~~ as recited in claim 9, wherein said longitudinal axis is a faying axis.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composite rotor blade spar assembly~~ as recited in claim 9, wherein each of said braided bias angled fibers follow a spiral path around said longitudinal axis.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composite rotor blade spar assembly~~ as recited in claim 9, wherein a leading edge and a trailing edge conic of said spar comprise only said braided bias angled fibers.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composite rotor blade spar assembly~~ as recited in claim 9, wherein each of said zero degree fibers are positioned adjacent an upper and lower surface of said spar.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composite rotor blade spar assembly~~ as recited in claim 9, further comprising a separate composite sheet interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers and said multiple of zero degree fibers.

15-21. (CANCELED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~hollow composite article assembly~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein said braided sleeve is formed to generally constrict toward said longitudinal axis.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composite rotor blade spar assembly~~ as recited in claim 9, wherein said braided sleeve is formed to generally constrict toward said longitudinal axis.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~composite rotor blade spar assembly~~ as recited in claim 9, wherein said multiple of zero degree fibers are maintained in tension.

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25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A rotor blade assembly, comprising:

a composite rotor blade spar including a multiple of braided bias angled fibers and a multiple of zero degree fibers interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers which form a braided sleeve which surrounds a longitudinal axis, said multiple of braided bias angled fibers oriented non-parallel to said longitudinal axis, said multiple of zero degree fibers substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis;

an upper skin which at least partially surrounds said spar to define an upper aerodynamic surface; and

a lower skin which at least partially surrounds said spar to define a lower aerodynamic surface.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The assembly as recited in claim 25, wherein said zero degree fibers are positioned adjacent an upper surface and a lower surface of said spar and a separate composite sheet interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers and said multiple of zero degree fibers adjacent at least one of said upper and lower aerodynamic surfaces.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The assembly as recited in claim 25, wherein said upper skin and said lower skin are formed from a multitude of prepreg composite material plies.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The assembly as recited in claim 25, further comprising a leading-edge sheath which interconnect said upper skin and said lower skin forward of said spar relative said longitudinal axis.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The assembly as recited in claim 28, further comprising a counterweight between said leading-edge sheath and said spar.

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30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein said braided sleeve is resin impregnated.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, wherein said braided sleeve is resin impregnated.

32. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said braided sleeve defines a race-track shaped elongated cross-sectional profile.

33. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said braided sleeve defines an elliptical-shaped elongated cross-sectional profile.

34. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said braided sleeve defines an airfoil-shaped elongated cross-sectional profile.

35. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said braided sleeve is hollow.